

# FEMININE FANCIES

## THE SEASON'S EMBROIDERY DESIGNS

BY ANNE RITTENHOUSE.

Special Correspondence of The Star.  
NEW YORK, February 11.—Would you like to look like an illuminated miss? Would you care to appear as though you had been decorated by an artist of the fifteenth century? You can do so, if you wish.

Paul Poiret started the idea of embroidering his garments after old documents and he revealed in the art of faithful reproduction, rarely, however, talking of it.

He would find queer symbolical designs in Russia, in the French museums, in the libraries, and straightaway convert them into embellishments for a coat or frock he was fashioning in splendid colors.

After a bit, the husband of Mme. Le Franc, who was the chief embroiderer at the house of Poiret, where his wife was the chief designer, found that his clientele was delighted with



AFTERNOON FROCK OF EMBROIDERED TAFFETA AND CHIFFON. THE ORIGINAL TAKEN FROM AN OLD DOCUMENT SENT FROM PARIS.

old Japanese designs transferred to modern clothes, and so we often wear the crest of some centuries-old great house of Nippon on the back of our tea gown or the fronts of our coat.

### Follow the Fashion.

Now, for what reason it is hard to tell, others have at last found the charm of this reproduction, and a few of the new gowns from Paris have documented embroidery, if one may christen it thus, on the frocks for the street.

Witness the designs given today. The material is of taffeta and chiffon in parchment color. The gown is for the afternoon, although it will serve first as an open-air frock in the southern resorts during Lent. The skirt is wide and short, with the embroidery conventionalized. The snug fitting hip yoke and slim bodice with its near approach to a high waist line is covered with this embroidery, done in different shades of brown and tan and punctuated with taffeta-covered buttons. The sleeves are transparent, of the chiffon, with an elbow-deep cuff of embroidery.

Notice the round, open neck, and this with a frock intended for the day hours. It is as daring as the décolleté fashions of last winter, which we thought had been completely vanquished by the high-buttoned effect.

Surely one cannot complain of discomfort in this. It suggests the addition of a round yoke of chiffon, to the majority, if it is to be made suitable for ordinary life.

Applied in white serge, the embroidery done in dark bright blue and black threads, and the buttons of white silk, the effect is very good, and the frock becomes more wearable for a large number of women who live in a climate where white is acceptable before Easter arrives.

### Now Slim Bodices.

There is no shutting the eyes to the fact that the comfortable blouse which

## TO DARKEN HAIR APPLY SAGE TEA

A few applications of Sage Tea and Sulphur bring back its vigor, color, gloss and thickness.

Common garden sage brewed into a heavy tea with sulphur and alcohol added will turn gray, streaked and faded hair beautifully dark and lustrous, remove every bit of dandruff, stop scalp itching and falling hair. Just a few applications will prove a revelation if your hair is fading, gray or dry, scraggly and thin. Mixing the Sage Tea and Sulphur recipe at home, though, is troublesome. An easier way is to get the ready-to-use tonic, costing about 50 cents a large bottle at drug stores, known as "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound," thus avoiding a lot of fuss.

While wispy, gray, faded hair is not sinful, we all desire to retain our youthful appearance and attractiveness. By darkening your hair with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur, not only does it become naturally so, but you just dampen a sponge or soft brush with it and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time; by morning all gray hairs have disappeared, and, after another application or two, your hair becomes beautifully dark, glossy, soft and lustrous.

did not possess a sharply cut silhouette and hung on our bodies by the neckband its passing away, that may be too strong a statement to make, for as soon as one says a fashion is passing, it swells back into a revered storm cloud; but the sharply outlined blouse is seen in all the new clothes and it requires a well fitted pair of corsets.

Just what we will look like with these fitted, slim bodices in our everyday clothes, now that we have allowed our figures to develop and our waist lines to drift out of sight, is no easy question for the fashion reporter to answer, though it is asked every day.

The problem solved by the women themselves, who seem to have a conjurer's art of changing their appearance into whatever is required. If waists are demanded, there will be waists, and small ones, too.

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## Uncle Sam Tests Bread Made With Potato Meal

Baking experiments to test the value of making bread of potato-meal mixed with wheat flour are now being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture's bureau of chemistry. This is to test the possibilities of the potato in the same manner as Germany and Austria are now advising their people to do. The increased cost of living throughout the world has emphasized the fact that flour made of other substances than wheat, or of these substances mixed with wheat, might provide people with healthful food quite as nutritious as the pure wheat flour, and at the same time cheaper.

Austrian bakers are now compelled by law to use at least 30 per cent potato-meal in making their bread. The bureau of chemistry's potato-meal bread has been baked with from 25 to 50 per cent potato-meal and the remaining percentage wheat. The most satisfactory loaves in combining economy and appearance were those made with the minimum percentage allowed in Austria, or less. The loaves made with more than 30 per cent potato-meal were not so satisfactory, as they were heavier and less attractive in form. The bread has a rather coarse texture and dark appearance, but possesses a distinctive and agreeable flavor. It also retains moisture for a much longer period than ordinary wheat bread.

The bureau of chemistry used the imported "potato flake" in some of its experiments and in others meal made by milling and drying potatoes on a small scale in its laboratories. It should be added that such ordinary "potato flour" as is on our American markets is not the same as the German "potato flake," or Walsmehl, which has given such satisfactory results in the experiments. The question has been raised as to whether the ordinary cooked potato might not be satisfactorily substituted for the prepared potato-meal. The experimenters believe that it might serve the same purpose if used in just the right proportion, but this would be difficult for the average housewife to determine, as there is great danger of using too much and producing a very soggy loaf. However, the custom of adding a very little potato is already used by many housekeepers to keep their bread moist and this practice can very well be recommended for more general use.

### Banana and Chestnut Bread.

Dried bananas, ripe and unripe, and chestnuts are other substitutes for wheat flour with which experiments are being made by the bureau of chemistry. Still other products which offer promise of furnishing the public with a cheap and nutritious bread are the following:

Barley, Buckwheat, Rye, Millet, Sorghum, Kaoliang, Maize (polished and natural), Pearl, Peas, Potatoes (fresh and sweet), Cornmeal (white and yellow), Oatmeal, Soy bean and cottonseed flours, mixed with wheat flours in proper proportions (about 25 per cent), give a bread with about twice the amount of protein (muscle-building element) that ordinary wheat bread contains.

**Law Makes Manufacture of Mixed Flour an Unpopular Business.**  
The bureau of chemistry is making these experiments in spite of the fact that there is a law which makes it difficult for manufacturers to make mixed flour satisfactorily. This law surrounds the manufacture of mixed flour with so many restrictions that the business has not become a popular one. The result is there is very little mixed flour at present manufactured and offered for sale.

The mixed flour act was passed in 1898, before there was a food and drugs act, and was passed for the purpose of raising a war revenue at a time when many of the common articles of food did not command so high a price as now.

The tax of 4 cents which is now imposed on every barrel of mixed flour is not in itself a heavy one. It is the collection of it with the attendant regulations and restrictions that hampers any manufacturer who would like to make such flours.

It should be stated in connection with the mixing of other materials with wheat flour in making bread that this cannot always be done economically. There must be taken into consideration the prevailing market prices of the commodities to be used.

### Bits From Abroad.

The Maison Georgette (formerly Francis) of Paris, on the Rue Auber, have reopened their establishment, and had their spring opening the first week in February. So we shall have "Georgette" creations.

Milliner importers now in Paris have cabled that the new spring models are more beautiful than ever. Many of the leading houses are opening. Cheruit is showing exquisite new dresses.

Waist materials exploit very largely this spring the lustrous yet absolutely tubular silks. Among these there's a soft satin which the practical woman will like to remember.

### To Make Muffins.

One cup of scalded milk, two tablespoonfuls of butter, one cup of boiling water, one-fourth cup of sugar, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of salt, one-half yeast cake, one egg and four cups flour. Add the butter, salt and half of the sugar to the milk and water; when lukewarm, add yeast mixed with the remaining sugar, egg, well beaten, and flour. Beat thoroughly, cover and let rise until light. Put greased muffin rings on a hot griddle greased with lard. Fill half full with the raised mixture, and cook slowly until well risen and browned underneath. Turn muffins and rings and brown other side. When done, are cold, split open, toast and serve.

## ADVICE FOR THE WOMAN PAST FIFTY

The woman past fifty is very apt to think that for her all beauty aids are futile. In this view she is mistaken. Rather Time will leave certain marks on the human figure and face, but modern invention and science have done much to soften those marks. The real difficulty lies not with the remedy, but with the woman, who is too easily resigned to her fading charms.

Very often, too, the woman at fifty has more leisure and time to spend on her appearance than she had at thirty-five. To employ this intelligently and systematically is to her credit, and not a proof of folly or vanity. In fact, every member of her family will be the more proud of her if she aims to place herself in what is known as the Dresden class of elderly women, those dainty, distinctly feminine persons whose faces look youthful beneath gray or white hair, whose hands are plump and dimpled despite passing years and whose manners are sprightly.

As a general warning to elderly women, the writer says, never permit yourself to live in the past. This trick, more than anything else, will age you. So often we hear women say: "Life holds nothing for me now, save memories. I live with my loved ones in the past."

That speech and crows' feet are boon companions. Naturally the woman of fifty or more finds herself dropping into reminiscences, but do not indulge in this habit even if it gives you a melancholy sort of pleasure. It is better to be interested in their interests. Plan for the future. Never permit yourself to think that your usefulness is ended or your capacity for enjoyment dulled. You cannot play tennis, you certainly can take brisk walks in the fresh morning air—and play bridge later in the day. And there is no law, written or unwritten, against your playing golf.

Do not dress in what is known as a kitchin fashion, but do not think that because years are overtaking you you must wear dun-colored raiment. Do not brush your hair back severely from your face and don an uncomfortable toque. Fluff your hair on either side if you part it, and under no circumstances wear a severe pompadour unless you have classic features and a stately carriage.

Do not curl your hair with the iron, as this has a tendency to break hairs which you cannot afford to lose. Better far to use soft rags or patent curlers over night, and the night cap is enjoying a decided revival. Make this of very thin China silk, interlined with fine sheer wadding in which you strew sachet powder. This gives a charming perfume to the hair and wards off dangers from draughts if you sleep near an open window.

A very common defect peculiar to old age is bushy eyebrows. If your brows begin to thicken and turn bristly consult a surgeon or specialist and have the superfluous hairs removed. Do not attempt to do this yourself, as you are apt to break them near the root, not remove them, and they will grow out all the thicker. There is a knack in pulling out roots and all, and at the hands of a specialist it is not painful. Keep the brows nicely arched, and to do this use a soft brush, dipped in alcohol or toilet water.

Either learn to massage your face or have a specialist do this regularly, say twice a week, with the following anointing cream, which is especially fine for a flabby condition of the skin:

Mutton tallow ..... 1 lb.  
Glycerin ..... 5 ounces  
Tincture of benzoin ..... 2 drachms  
Spirits of camphor ..... 1 drachm  
Essence of rose ..... 1/2 drachm  
Best Russian isinglass ..... 1 drachm  
Orange-flower water ..... 2 ounces

Fry out the mutton tallow in an enamel saucepan. It should yield about a cup of fat, about the same quantity as you have of glycerin. In a double boiler mix these two ingredients and the powdered alum. In another saucepan, over a gentle flame, dissolve the isinglass in the orange water, and beat this into the mixture in the double boiler. Last, add the benzoin and the camphor, stirring constantly. Strain and pour into porcelain jars to harden.

For scrawny, wrinkled hands try massaging with olive oil. First warm half a cup of pure olive oil in an enamel dish set in a larger one of hot-water. Wash your hands until perfectly clean and allow them to soak in clear hot water for at least twenty minutes—this to open the pores and make them receptive. Pat the hands soapy dry, then drop a little of the warm oil into one hand and massage

## THE DAILY MENU.

**BREAKFAST.** Cereal  
Stewed Prunes  
Kidney Stew with Potatoes  
Buttered Toast  
**LUNCHEON.** Gelatine of Veal  
Apple Tart  
Tea  
**DINNER.** Pea Soup  
Boiled Tongue, Raisin Sauce  
Rice Balls  
Stewed Celery  
Tomato Salad  
Vanilla Snow Balls  
Sand Tarts  
Coffee

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## THE LATEST AMERICAN FASHIONS.



SPRING "STRAWS" THAT SHOW WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS.

than last year. Of the large-brimmed models there are any number, but the crown is kept very small.

Hats of grosgrain silk and of satin are smart for the first of the season, and among the newest straws barnyard is most modish, woven in coarse basket fashion into stiff tailored shapes. Tagal, hemp, crin and Milan are the best of the soft weaves.

Three clever hats are presented in the sketch. The first of white tagal faced with white Georgette crepe, has a smart trimming of four circular cabochons of black and white striped ribbon, arranged in pin-wheel fashion and set against the crown. This is a splendid model for a white silk hat.

Below is a chic design carried out entirely in white. A shallow oval crown, rising higher in back, is covered with white faille. Wing trimmings completely encircle the head-size, with the feathers curling over a bit at the sides.

The third model is of deift blue hemp

BY LILLIAN E. YOUNG.

And still the small hat is with us. Rather than any increase in their size the newest shapes are even smaller than they have been, closely trimmed and set a bit higher on the coiffure

"draped" a little around the head and very simply but effectively trimmed with a narrow wreath of wheat and pink roses that encircle the top. Among other shapes a modified Scotch bonnet and German helmet are considered smart for hats as well as gowns and suits are influenced by the military situation.

## Household Hints.

By taking a lemon and cutting it in two and squeezing the juice into the dishwater no soap is needed. The lemon will cut all grease, and in a few days' time the silver, such as knives, forks and spoons, will become bright as new. All dark spots will also disappear from pitchers and cups. Use the lemon over and over again.

Rub the stove quickly, while hot, with a piece of paraffin wax, then wipe with an old towel. After a time of two there is sufficient wax on the cloth, and by rubbing the stove over with it each black stove, with no rust and as little labor as possible.

When whisking an egg be sure the basin and knife are perfectly dry. There will then be no difficulty in getting it to foam up quickly.

Onions will fry more readily if dipped in milk after slicing.

Paint may be removed from windows with hot vinegar.

Half a pound each of soft soap, sand and whiting, simmered gently in a pint of water for half an hour and kept in a jar is handy for scrubbing boards and pans.

The home milliner generally makes the mistake of using too many stitches in sewing on flowers or feathers. "Few but strong" is the rule.

Apples pared, cored and set into a dish with sugar and water, to bake until tender, but not broken, are delicious with custard poured over them.

A double thickness of material, cut shieldwise and stitched under the arm while a dress is being made, will prove a great resource when the dress begins to wear out.

At the seashore it is often a question of how to save bedding from rusting. Try painting the springs with the same aluminum paint used for the radiators.



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